

ABSTRACT

A method for the detection of a compound that mimics, potentiates or inhibits the physiological effect of the ob-protein, which method comprises: (a) for a compound which mimics the physiological effect of the ob-protein, assessing the effect of the compound upon an ob-protein activated signal transducer and activator of transcription (STAT) DNA response element coupled to a reporter gene; or (b) for a compound which potentiates or inhibits the physiological effect of the ob-protein, assessing the effect of the compound upon the response provided by ob-protein upon an ob-protein activated STAT DNA response element coupled to a reporter gene; wherein, the response element and the reporter are expressed in an ob-protein responsive cell line or ob-protein responsive cells, which cell line is an endothelium derived cell line and which cells are endothelium derived cells.